



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ghirnikar et al.

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Application No.: 09/837,360

Group Art Unit: 2681

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Examiner: T.M. Davis

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

December 6, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the first complete examination of the instant application. Claims 1-28 and 30-38 are currently pending in the instant application. Claim 30 has been amended to attend to a minor informality therein. Independent Claim 29 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 12, 21, 26 and 30 are independent claims. The remaining claims are dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on the indicated independent claims. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

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